The Government has taken a series of measures to streamline TPDS. Earlier Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of Planning Commission and ORG MARG New Delhi, evaluated the Targeted Public Distribution System and submitted their reports in 2005. These studies reported diversion of foodgrins, exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of BPL families and non-viability of functioning of Fair Price shops.

Based on findings of these studies, a Nine Point Action Plan is already under implementation by State and UT Governments for stengthening of TPDS. A copy of the said Action Plan is enclosed at Statement I *(See* below). Its implementation is monitored by the Central Government. Implementation of nine point action plan by State and UT Governments has led to deletion of about 65 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards by 11 States/UT while reviewing the lists of their existing BPL/AAY households. Instructions have been issued to all the States/UTs take action against persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible persons.

Additionally, a revise Citizens' Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UTs Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

Furthermore, to ensure that TPDS foodgrains reach the targeted families and to minimize scope for their diversion, APL allocations have been rationalized. Concurrent evaluation of TPDS has been taken up. Training Programmes for TPDS functionaries and Awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TOPS has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning system is being piloted. Revised policy on distribution of wheat flour has been issued.

Statement

Action plan for strengthening of TPDS

(i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

(ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/ agencies.

(iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations-PRI representatives on Advisory Committee, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on vigilance Committees.

(iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

(v) Use of Information Technology, computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

(vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.